Oman (2)

(Presidential Country Files for Middle East and South Asia)



TIL PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

134

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEETING WITH HIS MAJESTY, QABOOS BIN SAID, THE SULTAN OF OMAN

(Pronounced: Ka-boose. Addressed: Your Majesty)

Thursday, January 9 2:30 p.m. (no translation) The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE

This is Sultan Qaboos' first substantive visit to the U.S. as Ruler and the first recent visit of an Omani head of state, although the U.S. has had diplomatic relations with Oman since 1833, longer than with any other Arabian Peninsula nation.

Your purpose in receiving the Sultan is to reaffirm our interest in strengthening relations with Oman and the Gulf states, to encourage the Sultan's enlightened leadership in coping with the problems of modernization and a Communist-supported insurgency in his Dhofar province, and to broaden his understanding of our strategy and objectives on the Middle East situation.

Oman is strategically located at the entrance to the Persian Gulf; much of the world's oil exports transit its territorial waters. The Sultan's relatively cosmopolitan approach towards foreign policy and his moderation have gained the respect both of the Saudis and Iranians, who have encouraged this visit and who remain deeply interested in the stability and moderation of the Oman regime.

It is in our interests, both for regional stability and in the context of the broader Middle East situation, to encourage the Sultan in his policies and to develop a sound dialogue with him on matters of mutual interest, building upon the long-standing ties that have existed between our two countries.

-<u>SECRET</u> (GDS) DR 6/21/02 The Sultan views his visit here as an opportunity to establish personal ties and strengthen relations with the American leadership and to burnish his own image as a traditional but progressive monarch at home and in the Arab world.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. <u>Background</u>: There are no issues dividing our two governments and our involvement with Oman has been limited in the past. Oman supports the Arab cause on Israel, but dispassionately. While it complied with the Arab oil boycott, it did not reduce its 300,000 barrel per day production. Oman seeks a Middle East settlement because it feels that will undercut radical influence in the area. While oil accounts for almost all of Oman's revenues, it is not a member of OPEC and plays a passive role on oil prices.

Oman's main link with the West has been in a 150-year old relationship with the British who still maintain an air base there and are intimately involved in the Omani bureaucracy and military. We have supported the UK presence as encouraging the continuation of a moderate and pro-Western regime as a bulwark against the radical policies of neighboring South Vietnam.

Oman obtains most of its <u>military equipment</u> from the UK but it has also recently sought to obtain some US equipment. Our policy, as in the Gulf generally, has been to be as forthcoming as our own supply situation permits, in the context of Oman's legitimate security needs. We have recently had to decline an Omani bid to buy TOW anti-tank missiles because we did not have them available.

Other than a small Peace Corps presence, we do not have an aid program in Oman. Oman has asked for technical assistance on a reimbursable basis through government-to-government channels and we are trying to be as helpful as possible. Direct private US business involvement in Oman is growing.

With the emergence of a number of new independent states in the lower Gulf since the departure of the British three years ago, we have assigned individual resident Ambassadors to these states.



Ambassador Wolle was assigned as the first US Ambassador to Oman in July of last year.

Our policy towards Oman has been to encourage its economic development and its fight against the rebellion in Dhofar, without becoming directly involved, in line with our broader posture of encouraging the leading states in the Gulf to assume responsibility for regional stability. This has included our encouragement of UK efforts and of regional economic and military assistance, mainly from Iran but also from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Sultan Qaboos has been appreciative of US efforts and has also recently been reassured as to the wisdom of his policies by the fact that UK military involvement in Dhofar was not affected by the recent British Defense Policy Review. He is likely to look to you for an affirmation of our continued support of his Government's counter-insurgency efforts in Dhofar through encouraging regional cooperation and direct sales of military equipment, when it is not readily available from other sources. I believe our strategy should be to reassure him on this point and on our general desire to be as responsive as possible (on a reimbursable basis) to any Omani request related to the country's economic development.

- B. <u>Participants</u>: Sultan Qaboos, Foreign Minister Zawawi, the Sultan's uncle and personal advisor, Sayyid Tarik, Henry A. Kissinger, Brent Scowcroft.
- C. <u>Press</u>: Press photo session at the beginning of the meeting and a short summary statement by Mr. Nessen following the meeting.

III. TALKING POINTS

- 1. I want to welcome you warmly to the United States and express my hope that your visit here will be pleasant and constructive. [The Sultan will be meeting with me, Secretary Schlesinger, Director Colby and Vice President Rockefeller.]
- 2. U.S. relations with Oman are long-standing, dating back to 1833. With the assignment of Ambassador Wolle to Oman last summer we look forward to an even closer relationship in the future.

- 3. We have followed your leadership with great interest and admire and respect the policies which you have set for your country.
- 4. In particular, I know that you face a great challenge in combatting the South-Yemen backed rebellion in Dhofar.

 I am aware of the progress being made under your leadership. We believe regional cooperation offers the best way for the U.S. to support Oman. As you know, we have given support to the efforts of Iran and the UK as well as Jordan and Saudi Arabia and other friendly states in helping Oman meet this challenge.
- 5. You are to be complimented for the <u>rapid economic progress</u> that Oman is making under your leadership. The record has been impressive and I applaud your efforts.
- 6. I know that your Government is interested in <u>technical assistance</u> on a reimbursable basis. We will continue to be as helpful as possible and will seek to locate personnel with the technical skills you desire. We seek closer relations between our two countries and the further development of mutual cooperation, especially in the economic and development fields.
- 7. On the issue of <u>military assistance</u>, the U.S. is prepared to sell Oman military equipment needed for its defense, to the degree our supply situation permits.
- 8. We believe you are right in trying to integrate the population of Dhofar into the national economy so they can see the natural benefits of support for your government.
- 9. Britain is a traditional ally of Oman. We will continue to encourage the British to keep up their support. Where we can be of supplemental help with technical assistance and weapons we will do our best but we think you can be the best judge of when and where U.S. help may be needed.
- 10. On the broader Middle East situation, we remain committed to continuing our efforts towards an overall settlement.

We appreciate Oman's understanding of our approach, which we believe in the present circumstances must continue to be a step by step process.

11. I am very much interested in hearing your views on the situation in the region in general as well as in Oman, including the problem of Dhofar.

Tab A -- Biography of Sultan Qaboos

Tab B -- Biography of Foreign Minister Zawawi

Tab C -- Biography of the Sultan's uncle and personal advisor, Sayyid Tarik

Tab D -- Map of Oman

Tab E -- Background paper on the Dhofar Rebellion

Tab F -- Biography of Ambassador Macki, Oman's Ambassador in Washington

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REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL .	•		•	National security restriction
TYPE OF MATERIAL	•	•	•	Biography
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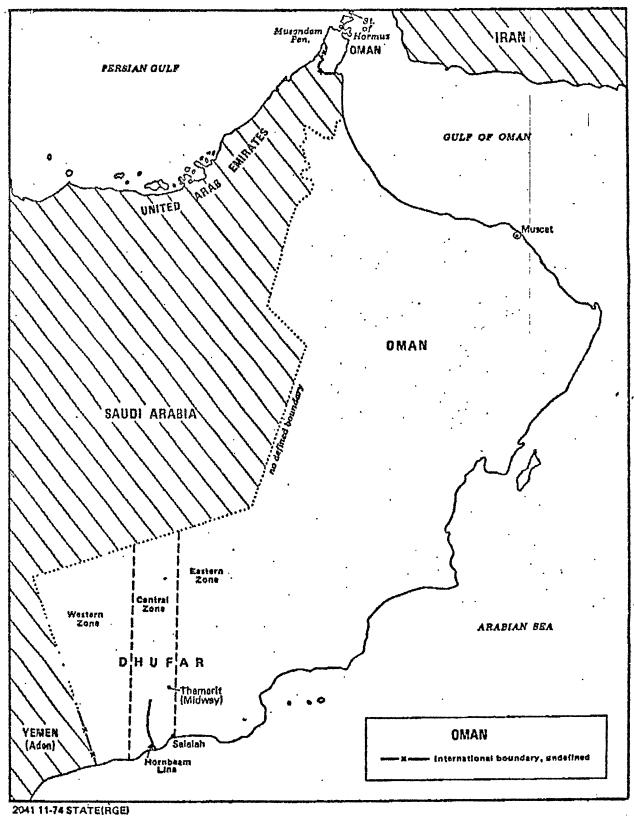
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BACKGROUND PAPER

The Dhofar Rebellion

The insurgency in the Sultanate of Oman began in the early 1960s as an indigenous tribal uprising against the repressive policies of Sultan Qaboos' father. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO) took over the rebellion in the late 1960s, and has used it to promote that organization's areawide goals. The PFLO is Arab nationalist, marxist, revolutionary, anti-Western, and anti-Iranian.

As a result of Oman's strategic importance--the Musandam Peninsula juts into the Strait of Hormuz, the outlet of the Persian Gulf--the Dhofar rebellion has drawn in several outside states:

- -- The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) provides extensive material and propaganda support to the PFLO. PDRY itself receives military equipment from the USSR, and advisors from the USSR, Cuba, and East Germany. PDRY also has shelled from its own territory Omani outposts on the disputed Dhofar border.
- -- <u>Iran</u> has recently expanded its military support of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) with a 3,000-man brigade and supporting units. Tehran also has transport aircraft and helicopters in Oman, and expects this month to base F-5 fighter aircraft in Dhofar.
- -- Great Britain continues its military relationship with Oman by having seconded and retired British officers and NCOs serving with the SAF.
- -- Jordan currently has an engineering company serving in Oman, and plans to add an infantry battalion to the SAF.

The Military Situation

The Dhofar rebellion is a guerrilla conflict in which quick fire-fights, long-range shelling, and mine warfare are the rule.

-- the destruction of the PFLO subversive apparatus in northern Oman,

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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE GEPT. QUIDELINES
BY LR, NARA, DITE 6/21/02

- -- the construction of the Hornbeam Line (a series of fortified posts west of Salalah, the capital of Dhofar, to restrict PFLO supply efforts), and
- -- the clearing of the Salalah-Midway road area by Iranian troops,

the initiative has returned to the SAF.

In an effort to strike a decisive blow, the SAF planned a fall offensive to sweep the western area of Dhofar, capture the main rebel supply caves, and thereby cut the rebels off from effective logistical support from PDRY. This offensive, however, was delayed until early December.

During the past few weeks, PFLO units have handed the well-equipped Iranian troops several setbacks. They have sustained over 70 casualties so far, while failing to accomplish most of their objectives. British observers have attributed these failures to lack of experience in guerrilla warfare. The SAF is now bringing in one of its battalions from east of the Hornbeam Line to act as a sweep force, while the Iranians hold the positions they have already taken. Once the Iranians gain combat experience, and when additional SAF troops have been released for combat by the arrival of the Jordanian battalion, the Sultan's forces may succeed in gaining the upper hand over . the rebels. Nonetheless, a low level of rebel activity is expected to continue in Dhofar as long as PDRY provides a minimum of material support. SAF successes, however, may force the PFLO to change its strategy from overt guerrilla warfare to covert terrorist activities in the populated areas of northern Oman.

Arab Concern Over the Iranian Presence in Dhofar

The Omanis do not appear to have any qualms about Iranian participation in the struggle against the insurgents. Nonetheless, other Arab governments, suspicious that the Iranians have expansionist ambitions to establish a permanent presence on the Arab side of the Gulf, have expressed concern both publicly and in private. As a result, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have proposed the creation of a pan-Arab force to serve in Dhofar. Although the ultimate purpose of such a force has been left vague, it is undoubtedly intended to replace the Iranians. In principle neither the Sultan nor the Shah opposes a pan-Arab force, but both are skeptical that it will materialize in the near future. As a result, Oman is proceeding with its own plans for the conduct of the war, hoping for whatever help it can get from the Arabs, but relying primarily upon its own forces, supplemented by assistance from Iran.

COMPTRENDIAL

BIOGRAPHY - Ahmed Macki

Sultanate of Oman

Ahmed Abdul Nabi Macki, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United States and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, served previously as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Described as by all odds the most able man in the Foreign Ministry and one of the most capable men in the Omani government, Macki was born in 1939. From 1959 to 1962 he studied in Cairo, and from 1962-65 in Paris, where he says he unlearned the political philosophy the Egyptians tried to teach him in Cairo. Macki headed the Omani student organization while in Egypt and received a B.A. in Commerce from Cairo University in 1965. He was greatly affected by his stay in France and has expressed the view that more Omanis should be educated in the West to balance the number of Omanis who were forced to study in communist countries in the 60's for lack of alternate opportunities.

After his studies he worked for some time for UNESCO in Paris and then as an advisor to a Canadian firm in Abu Dhabi. Following the accession of Sultan Qabus, Macki returned to Oman to become Director of the Prime Minister's office in 1971 and then temporarily Omani representative to the UN for the 1971 and 1972 UNGA sessions. He was appointed Undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry in February 1972. Described as a strong personality, Macki has frequently travelled abroad on behalf of Sultan Qabus on delicate missions.

Besides his native Arabic, Macki speaks English and French. He is married to a French and English-speaking Spanish national, the former Piedad Manso-Fernandez. They have one child, a 3 year old daughter named Dina.

GDS--DECLAS Dec. 31, 1980

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S/S 7500267

THE SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON

January 9, 1975

-SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From: Henry A. Kissinger

Subject: Visit of Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ibn Al-bu

Sa'id

I. PURPOSE

Oman is important to US interests because it is in a geographic position (with Iran) to control the Strait of Hormuz, through which two thirds of the world's oil exports pass. Its stability is a matter of prime concern to Iran and Saudi Arabia. Underdeveloped and isolated diplomatically until Qaboos took power in 1970, Oman is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula confronted with a guerrilla insurgency, which has been underway in its southwestern province of Dhofar which borders Marxist South Yemen, the principal supporter of the rebels.

Sultan Qaboos comes at a time of rapid economic development in Oman made possible by increased oil revenues, and continuing but slow success in the war against communist-led guerrillas. He will be here on a nominally private visit, but sees this as an opportunity to strengthen his relationship with American leaders and to burnish his own image as a traditional but progressive monarch both at home and in the Arab world generally. For us, it provides a chance to strengthen our ties with one of the Persian Gulf states, show our interest in Oman's efforts to develop its economy and defend its territory, and indicate our appreciation for the Sultan's own efforts in resisting communist-backed subversion emanating from South Yemen.

SECRET GDS HR 6/21/02

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Your purpose in this meeting will be:

- -- to reassure Qaboos that we value our historically friendly relations in Oman;
- -- to encourage him to continue his struggle against the insurgency in Dhofar, looking to friendly regional states for support;
- -- to compliment Qaboos on his determination to pursue a policy of rapid economic development and reiterate our willingness to cooperate in providing technical assistance on a reimbursable basis;
- -- to assure him of your personal commitment to work towards a just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict.

II. BACKGROUND AND STRATEGY

A. Background. There are no issues dividing our two governments, and our involvement with Oman has been limited. Oman supports the Arab cause on Israel, but dispassionately. While it complied with the Arab oil boycott, it did not reduce its 300,000 barrel per day production. The Omanis want a Middle East settlement primarily because they feel it will undercut radical influence in the area. Petroleum, produced primarily by a British-led consortium, accounts for almost all of Oman's exports and revenues. Oman is currently earning \$800 million from its oil; however, it is not a member of OPEC and plays a passive role on oil prices.

For over 150 years British interests, both commercial and military, have been paramount in Oman. The British still have an air base there. The Sultan himself studied at Sandhurst. The Commander in Chief of his armed forces is a seconded British Major General. His de facto Minister of Finance and Development is an expatriate Australian, and his special personal advisor is an expatriate Canadian and former Sandhurst classmate. The Omani Army is led by some 300 British officers — about half on contract and half seconded from the regular

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British army. We support the continuing British involvement in Oman since it: (a) helps to assure the continuation of a moderate and pro-western regime sharing control of the entrance to the Persian Gulf with Iran, and (b) serves as a bulwark against the expansionary revolutionary designs of the Marxist regime in neighboring South Yemen.

The Omani armed forces obtain most of their military equipment from Britain. However, Oman has sought to purchase some US military items, and our policy has been to be as forthcoming as our own supply situation permits in the context of Oman's legitimate needs. However, three months ago we had to turn down an Omani bid to buy 100 TOW anti-tank missiles because we did not have them available.

We do not have an aid program in Oman, other than some 30 Peace Corps volunteers involved in such things as development of agriculture and water resources, nursing and public health. Oman has increasingly asked for technical assistance on a reimbursable basis through the Government-to-Government channel, and in such cases we try to be as helpful as possible. At the present time, for example, we are arranging to send to Oman (at Oman's expense) three air control specialists from FAA and a rural electrification expert. Direct private American business involvement in Oman is growing as well in such diverse fields as food processing, port construction, fisheries development, and legal assistance, and Sun Oil is currently preparing to explore promising areas off Oman's southern coast.

In line with the growth of our relations with Oman, we appointed a resident US ambassador to Muscat for the first time in July of this year. Our relations go all the way back to 1833, when we signed a treaty of friendship and navigation with the Sultanate.

B. Strategy. Our basic policy towards Oman has been to support the country's economic development efforts and its fight against foreign-backed insurgency in Dhofar without ourselves becoming directly involved in

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that conflict. We have successfully followed this policy through support of continued British involvement in Oman and encouragement of regional military assistance (primarily from Iran, but also to a limited degree from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia). The Iranians, at Omani request, have an expeditionary force in Dhofar, currently consisting basically of one infantry brigade with air support. The Jordanians have provided an expert military engineer company.

Sultan Qaboos appreciates our active encouragement of the regional support he has been receiving. He is reassured by the fact that British military involvement in Dhofar has not been affected by the recent Wilson Government Defense Policy Review. He is likely to be looking for an affirmation from you of our continued support of his government's counterinsurgency efforts in Dhofar through encouraging regional cooperation and direct sale of military equipment needed and not readily available from other countries. I believe our strategy should be to reassure him on this point and on our general desire to be as responsive as possible (on a reimbursable basis) to any Omani request related to the country's economic development.

III. TALKING POINTS

General

- -- We appreciate your dynamic leadership in meeting the threat of subversion emanating from South Yemen; Oman is the front line for peninsula security.
- -- You are to be complimented on the rapid progress Oman has made since you came to power in 1970 and began to earn substantial oil revenues. Your economic development in the last four years has been very impressive. I applaud your concern that this development serve the well-being of all your countrymen.
- -- Let me assure you of my personal commitment to a just and lasting Middle East peace. The United States will continue actively to work towards this goal. We appreciate Oman's understanding of our approach, which

-5-

we believe in the present circumstances must continue to be a step by step one.

US-Omani Relations

- -- First, I wish to emphasize my Government's basic policy and desire to promote increasingly close relations between our two countries and to foster mutual cooperation, especially in the economic and developmental field. As you know, we have 30 Peace Corps volunteers in Oman.
- -- Your Government has approached us on several occasions seeking technical assistance, on a reimbursable basis. We will continue to be as helpful as we can and seek to locate personnel with the technical skills you desire.
- -- We are also very much aware of heartening progress Oman is making in meeting the challenge of externally supported subversion in Dhofar. We see encouragement of regional cooperation as the best way for the United States to support Oman in its courageous response to this threat. Thus, as you know, we have given diplomatic support to the efforts of Iran and the UK, as well as Jordan, Saudi Arabia and other friendly states, in helping Oman to meet this problem.
- -- If at all possible, the United States is prepared to sell Oman military equipment needed for its defense. We support Oman's strategy of pacification in Dhofar. We know from our experience in Vietnam that there can be no ultimate "pacification" until the local population is closely integrated with the national government and benefiting from this connection through economic development.
- -- Britain is a traditional ally of Oman. We have no desire to displace it in Oman or even compete. On the contrary, we will continue to urge the British to keep up their support. We think they are doing a creditable job. Where we can be of supplemental help with technical assistance and weapons we will do our best, but we think you can be the best judge of when and where we are needed.

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-- I would be interested in your views on the possibility of an eventual political settlement of the Dhofar insurgency with South Yemen. We, ourselves, have no influence with the South Yemen regime, and that regime has shown no real signs of interest in improving relations with us despite our receptivity to the idea. But we could help line up international support for you and help you coordinate any initiative with other states in the area, if you so desired.

IV. PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS

- A. Participants. Sultan Qaboos will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Zawawi, his uncle and personal advisor Sayyid Tarik, and Oman's Ambassador Macki. I also intend to be present. An interpreter will not be necessary, as all speak fluent English.
- B. <u>Press</u>. The meeting has been announced; since this is an essentially private visit, there will be no arrival ceremony; there will, however, be a photo session at the start of your meeting.

Attachments:

- (1) Biographic sketches.
- (2) Background on the Dhofar Rebellion,

THE WHITE HOUSE

8 Jan p.m.

Kathy:

Attached is a zerox of the retyped version of # 134.

Original to be signed Thursday a.m. and forwarded to President.

Wilma

gate of

1/4

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 9, 1975

-SECRET

Ed Roberts

The attached is for your files. The substance was included in the Talking paper which was sent over last night (NSC Log #134) on the Sultan of Oman's visit.

Thelma

Thelma M. Toles

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E.O. 15138, SPO. 3.5

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

NSC/S

Log 134 secured by phone. This will have to be logged in. It should go across the street ASAP.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

SECRET

January 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject:

Briefing of the President for His Meeting with Sultan Qaboos of Oman

The President has agreed to see His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of Oman at 2:30 Thursday, January 9, for one hour. Attached are suggested talking points for possible use by the National Security Advisor in briefing the President for his meeting with Sultan Qaboos.

forGeorge S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Briefing Paper on Oman

GDS HR 6/21/02 1000

THE WHITE HOUSE

SECRET (GDS)

WASHINGTON

134

MEETING WITH HIS MAJESTY, QABOOS BIN SAID, THE SULTAN OF OMAN

(Pronounced: Ka-boose. Addressed: Your Majesty)

Thursday, January 9 2:30 p.m. (no translation) The Oval Office

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE

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Your purpose in receiving the Sultan is to reaffirm our interest in strengthening relations with Oman and the Gulf states, to encourage the Sultan's enlightened leadership in coping with the problems of modernization and a communist-supported insurgency in his Dhofar province, and to broaden his understanding of our strategy and objectives on the Middle East situation.

Oman (in addition to Iran) is strategically located in straddling the entrance to the Persian Gulf; much of the world's oil exports transit its territorial waters. The Sultan's mercy cosmopolitan approach towards foreign policy and his moderation have gained the respect of both the Saudis and Iranians who have encouraged this visit and who remain deeply interested in the stability and moderation of the Omani regime.

It is in our interests, both for regional stability and in the context of the broader Middle East situation, to encourage the Sultan in his policies and to develop a sound dialogue with him on matters of mutual interest, building upon the long-standing ties that have existed between one two same in the same time.

<u>SECRET</u> (GDS)

HR 6/21/02

-SECRET -- 2

The Sultan views his visit here as an opportunity to establish personal ties and strengthen relations with the American leadership and to burnish his own image as a traditional but progressive monarch at home and in the Arab world.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. Background: There are no issues dividing our two governments and our involvement with Oman has been limited in the past. Oman supports the Arab cause on Israel, but dispassionately. While it complied with the Arab oil boycott, it did not reduce its 300,000 barrel per day production. Oman seeks a Middle East settlement because it feels it will undercut radical influence in the area. While oil accounts for almost all of Oman's revenues, Oman is not a member of OPEC and plays a passive role on oil prices.

Oman's main link with the West has been in a 150-year old relationship with the British who still maintain an air base there and are intimately involved in the Omani bureaucracy and military. We have supported the UK presence as encouraging the continuation of a moderate and pro-Western regime as a bulwark against the radical policies of neighboring South Yemen.

Oman obtains most of its military equipment from the UK but it has also recently sought to obtain some US equipment. Our policy, as in the Gulf generally, has been to be as forthcoming as our own supply policy situation permits, in the context of Oman's legitimate security needs. We have recently had to turn aside an Omani bid to buy TOW anti-tank missiles because we did not have them available.

Other than a small Peace Corps presence, we do not have an aid program in Oman. Oman has asked for technical assistance on a reimbursable basis through government-to-government channels and we are trying to be as helpful as possible. Direct private US business involvement in Oman is growing.

With the evolution of a number of new independent states in the lower Gulf since the departure of the British three years ago,

-SECRET -- 3

we have assigned individual resident Ambassadors to these states. Ambassador Wolle was assigned as the first US Ambassador to Oman in July of last year.

Our policy towards Oman has been to encourage its economic development and its fight against the rebellion in Dhofar, without becoming directly involved, in line with our broader posture of encouraging the leading states in the Gulf to assume responsibility for regional stability. This has included our encouragement of UK efforts and of regional economic and military assistance, mainly from Iran but also from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, all of whom view South Yemen as a threat to the strategic lower Gulf area.

Sultan Qaboos has been appreciative of US efforts and has also recently been reassured as to the wisdom of his policies by the fact that the UK military involvement in Dhofar has not been affected by the recent Defense Policy Review of the Wilson Government. He is likely to look to you for an affirmation of our continued support of his Government's counter-insurgency efforts in Dhofar through encouraging regional cooperation and direct sales of military equipment, as needed, when it is not readily available from other sources. I believe our strategy should be to reassure him on this point and on our general desire to be as responsive as possible (on a reimbursable basis) to any Omani request related to the country's economic development.

B. Participants: Sultan Qaboos will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Zawawi, and by his uncle and personal advisor, Sayyid Tarik, I will attend together with General Scoweroft. How A.

C. Press: There will be a press photo session at the beginning of the meeting and a short summary statement by Mr. Nessen the work.

III. TALKING POINTS:

I want to welcome you warmly to the United States and express
my hope that your visit here will be pleasant and constructive.
[The Sultan will be meeting with me, and with Secretary Schlesinger.]

SECRET -- 4

Director Colby and Vice President Rockefeller.]

2. U.S. relations with Oman are long-standing, dating back to 1833. With the assignment of an Ambassador to Oman last summer (Ambassador Wolle) we look forward to an even closer relationship in the future.

- 3. We have followed your leadership with great interest and admire and respect the policies which you have set oncourse for your country.
- 4. In particular, I know that you face a great challenge in combatting the South-Yemen backed rebellion in Dhofar.

 I am aware of the progress being made under your leadership. We believe regional cooperation offers the best way for the U.S. to support Oman. As you know, we have given support to the efforts of Iran and the UK as well as Jordan and Saudi Arabia and other friendly states in helping Oman meet this challenge.
- At the same time, you are to be complimented for the rapid economic progress that Oman is making under your leadership. The record has been impressive and I applaud your efforts. We desire to have closer relations between our two countries and to foster mutual cooperation, especially in the economic and developmental fields.
- 6. I know that your Government has approached usseeking in technical assistance on a reimbursable basis. We will continue to be as helpful as possible and seek to locate personnel with the technical skills you desire.
- 7. On the issue of military assistance, if at all possible, the U.S. is prepared to sell Oman military equipment needed for its defense, to the day whom supply authority purity.
- 8. We believe you are right in trying to integrate the population of Dhofar into the national economy so they can see the natural benefits of support for your Government.
- 9. Britain is a traditional ally of Oman. We have no desire to displace it in Oman or even compete. On the contrary, we

-SECRET -- 5

will continue to encourage the British to keep up their support. We think they are doing a creditable job. Where we can be of supplemental help with technical assistance and weapons we will do our best but we think you can be the best judge of when and where we are needed.

10. On the broader Middle East situation, remain committed to seeing our Government continue with efforts towards an overall settlement. We appreciate Oman's understanding of our approach, which we believe in the present circumstances must continue to be a step by step one process.

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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEETING WITH HIS MAJESTY, QABOOS BIN SAID, THE SULTAN OF OMAN

(Pronounced: Ka-boose. Addressed: Your Majesty)

Thursday, January 9 2:30 p.m. (no translation) The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE

This is Sultan Qaboos' first substantive visit to the U.S. as Ruler and the first recent visit of an Omani head of state, although the U.S. has had diplomatic relations with Oman since 1833, longer than with any other Arabian Peninsula nation.

Your purpose in receiving the Sultan is to reaffirm our interest in strengthening relations with Oman and the Gulf states, to encourage the Sultan's enlightened leadership in coping with the problems of modernization and a Communist-supported insurgency in his Dhofar province, and to broaden his understanding of our strategy and objectives on the Middle East situation.

Oman is strategically located at the entrance to the Persian Gulf; much of the world's oil exports transit its territorial waters. The Sultan's relatively cosmopolitan approach towards foreign policy and his moderation have gained the respect both of the Saudis and Iranians, who have encouraged this visit and who remain deeply interested in the stability and moderation of the Oman regime.

It is in our interests, both for regional stability and in the context of the broader Middle East situation, to encourage the Sultan in his policies and to develop a sound dialogue with him on matters of mutual interest, building upon the long-standing ties that have existed between our two countries.

SECRET (GDS)

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

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SECRET (GDS)

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The Sultan views his visit here as an opportunity to establish personal ties and strengthen relations with the American leadership and to burnish his own image as a traditional but progressive monarch at home and in the Arab world.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. <u>Background</u>: There are no issues dividing our two governments and our involvement with Oman has been limited in the past. Oman supports the Arab cause on Israel, but dispassionately. While it complied with the Arab oil boycott, it did not reduce its 300,000 barrel per day production. Oman seeks a Middle East settlement because it feels that will undercut radical influence in the area. While oil accounts for almost all of Oman's revenues, it is not a member of OPEC and plays a passive role on oil prices.

Oman's main link with the West has been in a 150-year old relationship with the British who still maintain an air base there and are intimately involved in the Omani bureaucracy and military. We have supported the UK presence as encouraging the continuation of a moderate and pro-Western regime as a bulwark against the radical policies of neighboring South Vietnam.

Oman obtains most of its military equipment from the UK but it has also recently sought to obtain some US equipment. Our policy, as in the Gulf generally, has been to be as forthcoming as our own supply situation permits, in the context of Oman's legitimate security needs. We have recently had to decline an Omani bid to buy TOW anti-tank missiles because we did not have them available.

Other than a small Peace Corps presence, we do not have an aid program in Oman. Oman has asked for technical assistance on a reimbursable basis through government-to-government channels and we are trying to be as helpful as possible. Direct private US business involvement in Oman is growing.

With the emergence of a number of new independent states in the lower Gulf since the departure of the British three years ago, we have assigned individual resident Ambassadors to these states.

Ambassador Wolle was assigned as the first US Ambassador to Oman in July of last year.

Our policy towards Oman has been to encourage its economic development and its fight against the rebellion in Dhofar, without becoming directly involved, in line with our broader posture of encouraging the leading states in the Gulf to assume responsibility for regional stability. This has included our encouragement of UK efforts and of regional economic and military assistance, mainly from Iran but also from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Sultan Qaboos has been appreciative of US efforts and has also recently been reassured as to the wisdom of his policies by the fact that UK military involvement in Dhofar was not affected by the recent British Defense Policy Review. He is likely to look to you for an affirmation of our continued support of his Government's counter-insurgency efforts in Dhofar through encouraging regional cooperation and direct sales of military equipment, when it is not readily available from other sources. I believe our strategy should be to reassure him on this point and on our general desire to be as responsive as possible (on a reimbursable basis) to any Omani request related to the country's economic development.

- B. <u>Participants</u>: Sultan Qaboos, Foreign Minister Zawawi, the Sultan's uncle and personal advisor, Sayyid Tarik, Henry A. Kissinger, Brent Scowcroft.
- C. <u>Press</u>: Press photo session at the beginning of the meeting and a short summary statement by Mr. Nessen following the meeting.

III. TALKING POINTS

- I want to welcome you warmly to the United States and express my hope that your visit here will be pleasant and constructive. [The Sultan will be meeting with me, Secretary Schlesinger, Director Colby and Vice President Rockefeller.]
- 2. U.S. relations with Oman are long-standing, dating back to 1833. With the assignment of Ambassador Wolle to Oman last summer we look forward to an even closer relationship in the future.

3. We have followed your leadership with great interest and admire and respect the policies which you have set for your country.

- 4. In particular, I know that you face a great challenge in combatting the South-Yemen backed rebellion in Dhofar.

 I am aware of the progress being made under your leadership. We believe regional cooperation offers the best way for the U.S. to support Oman. As you know, we have given support to the efforts of Iran and the UK as well as Jordan and Saudi Arabia and other friendly states in helping Oman meet this challenge.
- 5. You are to be complimented for the <u>rapid economic progress</u> that Oman is making under your leadership. The record has been impressive and I applaud your efforts.
- 6. I know that your Government is interested in technical assistance on a reimbursable basis. We will continue to be as helpful as possible and will seek to locate personnel with the technical skills you desire. We seek closer relations between our two countries and the further development of mutual cooperation, especially in the economic and development fields.
- 7. On the issue of <u>military assistance</u>, the U.S. is prepared to sell Oman military equipment needed for its defense, to the degree our supply situation permits.
- 8. We believe you are right in trying to integrate the population of Dhofar into the national economy so they can see the natural benefits of support for your government.
- 9. <u>Britain</u> is a traditional ally of Oman. We will continue to encourage the British to keep up their support. Where we can be of supplemental help with technical assistance and weapons we will do our best but we think you can be the best judge of when and where U.S. help may be needed.
- 10. On the <u>broader Middle East situation</u>, we remain committed to continuing our efforts towards an overall settlement.

We appreciate Oman's understanding of our approach, which we believe in the present circumstances must continue to be a step by step process.

11. I am very much interested in hearing your views on the situation in the region in general as well as in Oman, including the problem of Dhofar.

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MEMORANDUM

134

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET (GDS) He661102 ACTION
January 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

ROBERT B. OAKLEY

SUBJECT:

Talking Paper for President's Meeting with the Sultan of Oman -- Thursday, January 9

At Tab I is the talking paper for the President's meeting with the Sultan of Oman tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. Under "Participants," Ambassador Macki and our Ambassador (Wolle) are not listed as I understand that decision is still pending. There is space for adding their names if desired.

We have not received the original memorandum from State signed by the Secretary.

RECOMMENDATION: That the package at Tab I be forwarded to the President.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

SECRET (GDS)

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH HIS MAJESTY, QABOOS BIN SAID.

THE SULTAN OF OMAN

(Provouverd: Ka-boose, Addressed: Your Weisty)
Thursday, January 9 Thursday, January 9

2:30 p.m. (no translation) The Oval Office

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Oman (in addition to Iran) is strategically located in straddling the entrance to the Persian Gulf; much of the world's oil exports transit its territorial waters. The Sultan's more cosmopolitan approach towards foreign policy and his moderation have gained the respect of both the Saudis and Iranians who have encouraged this visit and who remain deeply interested in the stability and moderation of the Omani regime.

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SECRET (GDS)
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A. <u>Background</u>: There are no issues dividing our two governments and our involvement with Oman has been limited in the past. Oman supports the Arab cause on Israel, but dispassionately. While it complied with the Arab oil boycott, it did not reduce its 300,000 barrel per day production. Oman seeks a Middle East settlement because it feels that will undercut radical influence in the area. While oil accounts for almost all of Oman's revenues, it is not a member of SPEC and plays a passive role on oil prices.

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- C. <u>Press</u>: Press photo session at the beginning of the meeting and a short summary statement by Mr. Nessen following the meeting.

III. TALKING POINTS

- 1. I want to welcome you warmly to the United States and express my hope that your visit here will be pleasant and constructive. [The Sultan will be meeting with me, Secretary Schlesinger, Director Colby and Vice President Rockefeller.]
- 2. U.S. relations with Oman are long-standing, dating back to 1833. With the assignment of Ambassador Wolle to Oman last summer we look forward to an even closer relationship in the future.

SECRET

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- 4. In particular, I know that you face a great challenge in combatting the South-Yemen backed rebellion in Dhefar.

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SECRET - GDS

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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URGENT VIA LDX January 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

GEORGE SPRINGSTEEN Executive Secretary Department of State

SUBJECT:

Attendance a President's Meeting Today with the Sultan of Oman and in Cabinet Room -- s/s 7500222 and 7500494

The President's meeting with the Sultan of Oman today shall include on the Omani side Foreign Minister Zawawi and the Sultan's uncle, Sayyid Tarik.

Ambassador Macki and Ambassador Wolle may accompany but should join the group State has recommended (s/s 7500494) be present in the Cabinet Room -- Mr. Ghassan Shakir, Mr. Yahya Omar and possibly Minister Rajab, along with Assistant Secretary Atherton and Ambassador Catto. Mr. Arthur Houghton of the NSC Staff will also be present.

Jeanne W Davis Staff **Store**tary

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D C 20520

January 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject:

Call by Sultan Qaboos of Oman on the President, Thursday, January 9, 2:30 p.m.

The Omanis have sought to expand the number of their own participants in the Sultan's meeting with the President, but have acquiesced in our requirement to limit the party actually seeing the President to three or four.

By way of being as forthcoming as possible, we believe we should make the following proposition to the Omanis, upon their arrival at Blair House: that some additional members of the party would be welcome to accompany the Sultan to the White House, and to be present in the Cabinet Room when the Sultan signs the guest book, but not to meet the President. While the Sultan, Special Advisor Sayyid Tarik, Foreign Minister Zawawi and possibly Ambassador Macki are in with the President, others would wait in the Cabinet Room. We would expect that this group would include Foreign Policy Advisor Ghassan Shakir, Foreign Policy Advisor Yahya Omar, and perhaps Minister of Communications Abdul Hafidh Salim Rajab. Assistant Secretary Atherton and Country Director Dickman would be available to spend time with this outer group until the meeting with the President ends.

Request approval.

If approved, request further that:

- The Cabinet Room be reserved for this outer group. (i.e., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.)
- b) Appropriate National Security Council staff members also be designated to be present in the Cabinet Room at 2:30 to meet with this outer group.

1 E Hecklinger for George S. Springsteen

Executive Secretary

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D C 20520

January 7, 1975

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Ambassador Wolle's Participation in Sultan Qaboos' Visit

Ambassador Wolle, who is back in Washington from Muscat for consultation, has been included as a participant during Sultan Qaboos' meeting with the Secretary of State in the social functions that are being organized in honor of the Sultan.

Ambassador Wolle's participation during Sultan Qaboos' call on the President on Thursday, January 9, remains undecided.

The Omani group calling on the President includes, in addition to the Sultan, Foreign Minister Zawawi, Sayyid Tarik who is the uncle and personal adviser to the Sultan, and Omani Ambassador to the United States Ahmed Macki. We believe it would be fitting if Ambassador Wolle were also present.

George/S. Springsteen Executive/Secretary

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Attached is a thank you message from the Sultan of Oman who visited Washington and Met with the President on January 9, 1975. As a thank you message, it requires no further action. Separately, however, the Sultan will be receiving a thank you letter from the President for gifts presented by the Sultan during his visit. Close out.

rosemaryhiehuss

[NSC/S Copy of original incoming should be sent to State.]



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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR TERRY O'DONNELL

FROM:

MAJOR BARRETT

The following message from the Sultan of Oman was received Saturday evening at approximately 9:20 p.m. from the Sultan's aircraft as he was departing the country:

"Mr. President, as I depart from your fine country, I take the opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your generous hospitality extended to myself and the members of my staff. My few days in Washington and the friendly meetings held with yourself and your Administration have been most useful and I look forward to continuing our relationship between our two countries. All week a solid foundation has been laid once again. Mr. President, please accept my deep thanks. I wish you and your family and the people of the USA the very best of happiness and prosperity".

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